

## **Methods for Bat Exclusion and Capture**

- I. Excluding bats from buildings used by humans
  - A. Observe where the bats exit at dusk.
  - B. Loosely cover these areas with plastic sheeting or bird netting, which will allow bats to crawl out and leave, but not re-enter.
  - C. Conduct this activity between April and May or between August and September to prevent trapping young bats in the building (they are typically born in late May through June).
  - D. Seal any openings larger than a quarter-inch by half-inch with caulk.
  - E. Install window screens, chimney caps and draft guards beneath attic doors.
  - F. Fill electrical and plumbing holes with steel wool or caulking.
  - G. Ensure that all doors to the outside close tightly.
  - H. For professional assistance, contact a company that has experience dealing with excluding bats from buildings so that humans, pets and bats are kept safe.
- II. Individual bats found in living quarters when there has been no human or pet contact:
  - A. Allow the bat to find its way back outdoors by:
    - 1. Closing off the room,
    - 2. Turning on the lights,
    - 3. Opening all windows and doors, and
    - 4. Observing the bat until it leaves.
  - B. If a bat does not leave the building:
    - 1. Wait for it to land,
    - 2. Wearing gloves, cover it with a coffee can or similar container,

3. Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat,
4. Tape the cardboard tightly to the can, and
5. Release it out-of-doors, away from populated areas and preferably after dark.

III. Capture of bats that have exposed a person or pet:

- A. Close windows and doors to the room and closets,
- B. Turn on lights if the room is dark,
- C. Wait for the bat to land,
- D. Wearing gloves, cover the bat with a coffee can or similar container,
- E. Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat,
- F. Tape the cardboard tightly to the can, and
- G. Have the bat humanely euthanized and submitted for rabies testing.

More information can be found at: <http://www.batcon.org/home/default.asp> or [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/bats\\_&rabies/bats&.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/bats_&rabies/bats&.htm).